

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

Office of Public Information

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LANSING, MI, November 8, 2001 – Former Court of Appeals Judge Glenn Allen, who passed away at his DeWitt, Michigan home on November 6, “was a paragon of public service and personal integrity,” said Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan. Allen was 87.

“Our Court is profoundly saddened by Judge Allen’s passing,” said Corrigan. “Judge Allen was one of the reasons that the ‘Greatest Generation’ is great.”

Allen was a legal advisor to General George Patton in WWII, Corrigan said. Allen served three years in the Army, in which he was an assistant Judge Advocate of the 94th Infantry Division. He was awarded four battle stars and a Bronze Star.

“Judge Allen was in the Battle of the Bulge,” said Corrigan. “I told him that I was so impressed that he had been an advisor to Patton. Judge Allen said, ‘Don’t be. Patton had a lot of legal advisors, and he never listened to any of us!’”

Allen was born in 1914 in Kalamazoo. He attended Amherst College and graduated from Kalamazoo College. He received his law degree from Columbia University School of Law in 1939. Allen practiced law in Kalamazoo for 16 years, 14 of them with his own law firm, Crum, Allen & Mullen.

Allen’s career included four consecutive terms as Mayor of Kalamazoo, from 1951 to 1959. He served as State Comptroller and Budget Director under Governors George Romney (1963-68) and William G. Milliken (1971-74). He was also Special Counsel for Legal, Fiscal and Legislative Affairs under Milliken from 1971-74. Milliken appointed Allen to the Michigan Court of Appeals in 1974; Allen was elected to a six-year term in 1980. He retired from the bench in 1986, but continued to serve from time to time as a visiting judge on the Court of Appeals.

“Just recently, in October, Judge Allen asked me if I needed him to come back to the bench,” Corrigan said. “That was so typical of him. He was so full of life, so ready to give of himself.”

Allen played a key role in the Constitutional Convention of 1961, to which he was a delegate. Just a few weeks before his death, Allen attended the October 3 dedication ceremony of Constitution Hall in Lansing, marking the 40th Anniversary of the Convention.

Former Court of Appeals judge Robert Danhof, who was also a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, praised Allen as “a fine lawyer, a good friend and a stalwart citizen of Michigan.”

Until his death, Allen served as secretary-treasurer of the Michigan Retired Judges Association, attending a state-wide judges’ meeting in early October, Danhof said.

“His energy was unbelievable,” said Danhof. “He was always smart, effective, and humorous, a good person to work with.”

Allen’s civic activities included the Kalamazoo Kiwanis Club, the Boy Scouts of America, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He served as a trustee of Kalamazoo College from 1978 to 1982. In 2000, he was named “Person of the Century” in the government category by the Kalamazoo Gazette.

Supreme Court Commissioners Glen Gronseth and Tom Jackson, who served as judicial clerks for Allen at the Court of Appeals, remember the judge as an energetic worker who loved tennis and good company.

“He did not have a mean bone in his body, and he kept hard at work until the very end,” said Gronseth. “And he was crazy about tennis. He played until he was well into his 80’s.”

Jackson, who visited with Allen about 10 days before his death, said the 87-year-old hoped his health would improve so that he could return to work.

“He was as full of life as three ordinary people,” said Jackson.

Allen is survived by two daughters, Holly Mull and Susan Allen, and three grandchildren. A memorial service is planned for later this month, said a spokesperson from Gorsline-Runciman Funeral Home in Lansing.
